



Southeast New Mexico Fire Prevention Team

PHONE: (505) 434-7332

Email nmfpet@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recent Rain Will Not Affect Fire Danger

Alamogordo, NM (May 16, 2006) – Despite the recent rainfall on the Lincoln National Forest, fire danger is still extreme and the partial closure order is still in effect in order to protect the forest from the risk of wildfire and ensure the public's safety.

Four small fires were reported and quickly suppressed in the last three days. Cooler temperatures and the small amount of rainfall were not enough to affect the fire danger or lift the restrictions that are currently in place.

Officials on the Lincoln National Forest would like to thank property owners that live adjacent to the National Forest for their care and observance of fire regulations, and for understanding the closure orders that restrict the access to National Forest land from their property.

While much of the Lincoln National Forest is closed to recreational use, the surrounding towns and villages welcome visitors for sightseeing, shopping and special events. Contact the local chambers of commerce and arts councils for the villages of Alamogordo, Cloudcroft, Ruidoso, Ruidoso Downs, Mayhill, Sacramento, Weed, Timberon, Capitan and Queen to obtain a calendar of events.

The Lincoln National Forest is planning to implement a Stage IV Emergency Area Fire Closure order on May 23, 2006. If conditions do not change, or there is significant fire activity, it may be necessary to close the Forest completely before May 23, 2006.

For more information on current fire restrictions on public lands in New Mexico and Arizona, call toll-free 1-877-864-6985 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire.

end